91.7 FM
KVRX

The Call Letter

The University of Texas Austin

September 1998

In this Issue...

Interview with Dr. Rick Lawn

Spotlight on Barton Creek Breakdown

Community Programming

CD Reviews

None of the hits, all of the time.

Spotlight on Barton Creek Breakdown

It is seven o'clock in the morning and you have to be out the door by eight. You slam the fifth cup of joe, kick yourself for making any sort of commitment before noon and then, right on schedule, you begin to have a breakdown. It is OK, lots of people get a little neurotic every Thursday morning when Alexander, Eva and *The Barton Creek Breakdown* hit the airwaves.

The Breakdown originated in the summer of 1996 with a man named Maffie and a lonely little time slot on Sunday nights from 11-12 PM. Many DJs later, and a time change to Thursday mornings at seven, *The Barton Creek Breakdown* has evolved into a morning ritual for many Austinites. It has become an addiction great enough to get the show voted the fifth best in Austin in the *Austin Chronicle's* Music Awards.

One of the more original ideas to darken the doorway at KVRX, *Barton Creek Breakdown* specializes in "country, 'old time', folk, bluegrass and gospel." This format allows the show to cover many of the somewhat less popular genres of KVRX. While playing music from such a wide spectrum may seem like a lot of territory to cover, the show manages to flow quite easily in the transition from Johnny Cash to honky-tonk ballads and gospel. Thankfully, DJs Alexander and Eva keep everything running smoothly with their early morning charm. Last Thursday Eva declared one of her final sets a drinking set.

A drinking set at 8:30 in the morning?

"Sure," Eva said, "You know what people always say about playing a country song backwards... You get your dog back, your wife comes back and you sober up. Country just has some damn good drinking songs."

That was a great show.

"The best shows are the ones where you have a listener call in afterwards and say 'That was really great... I listen every week, keep up the good work," Alexander said. "There are a lot of those, thankfully. The bad ones are the inverse of that. I had a listener call up our first show last semester and ask me what was wrong with me. I had no idea what she meant. She told me that everything I played was crap. That was a bad show."

While most of us know that Barton Creek is one of the many creeks that runs through Austin, you may not know that a breakdown is a word describing a musical piece that breaks down in composition such as Flatt and Scruggs' "Foggy Mountain Breakdown". According to Eva, there are many things about *The Barton Creek Breakdown* that their audience does not know. "People always say 'Oh... a country show' in a negative voice, but they don't realize how much they listen to was influenced by or falls into the realms of country. We're all over the place. We get to the roots."

- Kelly Colchin

Barton Creek Breakdown

Thusdays from 7-9 AM

Theme Song:
"Dueling Banjos" by Steve Mandell and Erik Weissman

Sample Play List:
Woody Guthrie- "I Just Want to Sing Your Name"
Bill and Belle Reed- "Old Lady and the Devil"
Neil Morris- "Corn Dodgers"
Frank Stokes- "How Long"
Merle Haggard- "Mama Tried"

Coming in October...
special guest Arkey Blue!

It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood...

The FCC requires that all non-commercial stations occupy at least ten percent of their airtime with programs that benefit the community as a whole. Because of this, Community Programming has been a part of KVRX's format from the beginning. However, it has served another important function at KVRX by giving the station an opportunity to enlighten its audience with a new look into many current issues.

In the beginning, Community Programming was recorded on reel-to-reel in the station and then played back over the air every weekday morning. The shows consisted of a half-hour interview with an authority on a current issue. On Saturdays, the best of the shows were put together and then played again. October of 1994 marked KVRX's first steps into the realm of FM and also the fatal last spin from the reel-to-reel. These events called for a fresh look at Community Programming. The managers at the time decided that the programs would be more suited to the new FM audience if they were live, thirty-minute shows in the evenings. The new, live broadcast added spark to the programs, but they still seemed to be aimed at a small audience.

As the station became more aquainted with the new format, more people became interested, the shows became interesting to more people, and then things began to happen.

"Brian Winter's Public Affairs show last year, the *411*, really got things going," former station manager and KVRX historian, Mike Heidenreich said. "When you have one show that is good, it brings attention to the station and it makes other people want to do shows like that."

And so it went. The DJs doing the shows felt good about their work and in return, the shows started to meet the demands of a growing audience.

The current Community Programming Director, Mark Adams, has high hopes for the future of Community Programming. He quotes UT Philosophy professor, Douglas Kellner, in his belief that, "the challenge for education today is thus to promote multiple literacy's and to empower students and citizens to use new technologies to enhance their lives and to create a better culture and society based on respect for multicultural difference and the full democratic participation of individuals and groups largely excluded from wealth and power in the previous modern society."

"Student radio can be a marvelous place to struggle with this ideal," Adams adds. "KVRX provides the opportunity for students to learn to use media culture as a form of communication, expression, activism, and community."

These hopeful ideals lead us into a new season of community-unity and a great Community Programming line up for the fall semester.

Interview with Dr. Rick Lawn

We begin with the shameful plug. Every Tuesday morning from 7 to 9, I somehow wind up hosting *Swinging at Sunrise*, the jazz program on KVRX. One morning, jazz professor Dr. Rick Lawn from UT's music school visited for about an hour, sharing information about jazz studies at UT, an endless knowledge of the jazz art form and its history, and one microphone with yours truly. Jazz is an improvised art, and this particular morning could have been labeled "improv radio" since, other than knowing Dr. Lawn had accepted my invitation, I had no idea what topics we might cover.

One of the first songs was "Daybreak Express," an early Count Basie tune from *Sixth Floor Jazz*, the latest CD from the UT Jazz Orchestra (available at local record stores - They get their plug as well). Lawn described the tune as a "musical tone painting of a train pulling into, and away from, the train station." The track comes from a performance directed by jazz historian and composer Gunther Schuller. According to Dr. Lawn, "the exciting part for the students... was a chance to work with Gunther, who is so well attuned to the authenticity idea of playing the great repertoire - things from Duke Ellington, Fletcher Henderson, and so on." Past guest artists include Jim McNeely, pianist and composer for the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, bassist Christian McBride, and composer Vince Mendoza.

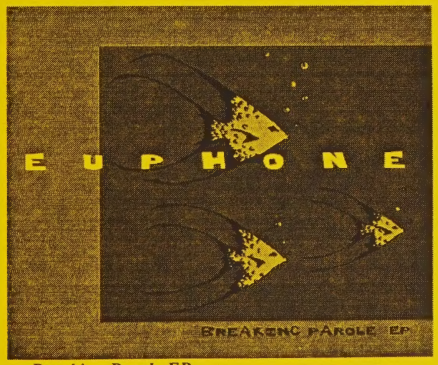
We continued with a track from Austin's swing gurus, The Lucky Strikes, from their latest release *Song and Dance*. Regular Lucky Strikes members Elias Haslanger and Freddie Mendoza have both been through the UT and SWT jazz departments - just two of the many students Dr. Lawn has seen, in his 18 years at UT, enjoy local and national success. Dr. Lawn also shared a Lionel Hampton tune from 1939, "the middle of the peak of the swing/big band era - without a doubt the most popular phase that jazz has ever enjoyed." The same week of the show, Hampton, "the last living vestige of the swing era," noted Lawn, played Austin City Limits but, due to his health, could not visit the UT music department. "It's interesting how we're experiencing now, this nostalgic re-birth and interest in swing-music, and the popularity of local groups, like The Lucky Strikes, I think speaks to that." Nostalgia, through swing bands, movies about disco, Lionel Hampton, the unfortunate loss of Sinatra which brought his music back, Kiss cover bands, and even movies remembering times as close as 1982, seem to be America's method of culturally identifying itself. With regard to the swing revival, Dr. Lawn remarked,

"I think it's good, because this is our music. What better American innovation to have a nostalgic re-birth of but jazz?"

Professor Lawn is more than an encyclopedia of jazz history. Moving away from the idea of nostalgia altogether, he remarked, "I'm prejudiced, and I admit that because I'm a jazz composer myself. But I really think that in the decade ahead we're going to see more and more impact on shaping where jazz is going to go from people like Maria Schneider, Vince Mendoza, Jim McNeely- the people who are functioning as jazz composers and really pushing the music in new directions, forcing the players, as improvisers, to address new and different challenges." With this we moved to The Vanguard Orchestra and Jim McNeely album *Lickety Split*. The Vanguard Orchestra is today's rendition of the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Big Band, which is famous for its creative, experimental, yet swinging, big band compositions and arrangements. Jim McNeely, as mentioned before, has been a guest at UT. Future guests include Manny Albam, who will be the guest artist on October 16th with the UT Studio Orchestra (a combination of strings and the Jazz Orchestra). Later in the spring, during the Longhorn Jazz Festival, famous sax player Michael Brecker will play with the UT Jazz Orchestra.

Between swing nostalgia and progressive arrangements, we tried to cover as much as possible in one hour. It would take days of air-time to share what Dr. Lawn knows, so I'm definitely holding him to his, "we should do it again" comment. I encourage you to catch a Jazz Orchestra concert in Bates Recital Hall sometime, with or without a high-profile guest. Rick Lawn and the rest of the faculty, including Jeff Hellmer and John Fremgen, are doing a fine job. If you want dates and times, I think they get announced every once a while on some morning jazz show with an illiterate host.

- Philip Moody



Euphone : ***Breaking Parole EP***

Vibraphone dub-o-phonics by Ryan Rapsy's one man dubotronic band; for the fans of Tortoise, Dylan Group, Mice Parade, HIM, Bill Ding and Directions in Music "echoes" 12". This is Euphone's 2nd release, following a full length exceptional CD. Instrumental short essays on the state of all things jazzy and lightly breaded. Shaking together indie guitars and improv funk-i-ness. Smooth man, smooth. #7 "New Dusk Policy" takes me away; an almost percussion-less, sparkling guitar number that becomes less like the dub indie rock band they are. Euphone is listed as playing this years CMJ in NY this November.

- John Barker

Don't Forget...

KVRX Night at Bates Motel

617 E. 6th St.

No Cover for 21 and Up

Under 21... just 2.00

Monday Nights- Bands TBA

Polvo's

2004 South 1st St.

No Cover... Moderately Priced Mexican Food

Saturday, October 3

John Simmon's Band

Mark Lint and the Fake

91.7 KVRX Fall Schedule

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5am	Pierre	Scott	Jason	Josh S	Erik	Tina	Ana
7am	Maria	Amy	Swingin' At Sunrise	Morning Toast N Jam / Blues	Barton Creek Breakdown	Stacey	Leital
9am	David D	Jennifer	Yaz	John E	Bart	Ross M	David M
11am	Stacy M	Josh L	Erika	Alan	Kaleb	Tim	Adam Z
1pm	Jody	Steve G	Sarah	Stacy R	Zafar	Josh G	Jonathan L
3pm	Dave K	Jonathan E	Patrick	Thomas	Toto	Steve T	John
5pm	Larissa & Sandy	Big Bad Brad	Paul	Martin	Tommy	Will	Jaimey
7pm	How Diddy Doo, Kids!	Out Loud / Phil S	Shrink Wrap / CJ Buchanan	KVRX Sports / The Film Show / 411	TBA / "Justine"	Under Pressure / Carole	Pete
9pm	Local Live	Geary	Marissa	Female Perspectives / KVRX News / Bevo Skanks	David S	The Texas Show	Chris / Artist Hour
11pm	Dave D	Happy Hours.	Hicksville For Delgatti	Michael	House of Phat Beats	The Thirteenth Hour	Urban Concepts
1am	Susan	Courtney	Chaos Vs. Cosmos	Amber	Stephanie	Dave B	B-Side
3am	Talley	Josh M	Adam H	Andy	Christi	Nancy	John & John

Bergheim 34 : S/T

Electro-organic tunes from the far fringes of post-rock. Bergheim 34 is a collective of youngsters who improvise and record in a friend's apartment, the address being the band's moniker. A total of six talents contribute to this DIY recording. Guitar and keyboards mingle with loops, sitar, and smooth beats and minimal live percussion. Much like To Rococo Rot, whom also creates melodies by keeping the structures simple, using samples and bass guitar. Variety is abound... mellowness is the pill.

-John Barker

Coming in the October Issue...
Interview with the Peenbeats!

The Swirlies : *Strictly East Coast Sneaky Flute Music*

This NY guitar collective, most known for MBV feedback creations are still innovating, joining with the Illbeint NY Dj's: dj spooky, Rich Costey, Carlos "soul" Slinger, Bob Brass + member Adam Pierce (of Mice Parade and the Dylan Group). This is my NY soundtrack. Puntcured and streached guitar, horns from across the street and insane beats and rythyms pumped out by those huge speaker trucks driving down the canyon of buildings blaring Sneaky Flute Music. At the end of the album comes the Sneaky Flute Orchestra, a collection of hums and buzzes that might be called experimental jazz. The main feel of this album comes from it's creative fusion of beats and guitar noises. No middle America techno, this is NY hydroponic pot delivery service music. Get dizzy and wander around, and these tunes are the tunes you'll hear. Most tracks flow together in a seamless trance induding conditions within various states of electronic evolution or devolution.

-John Barker

We are always looking for new UT students to join our ranks. KVRX wants **YOU** to review CDs and records, DJ music on air, help with production, make flyers, organize events and sell underwriting. Come by the station on the north side of 21st St., halfway between Speedway and San Jacinto or call (512)471-5106.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025 with funding from
Amateur Radio Digital Communications, Grant 1659

https://archive.org/details/kvrx-call-letter-3

David Shaenfield presents... KVRX Topless 39

1. Tom Waits - *Beautiful Malaides*
2. Arkey Blue - *Twenty Nine Years*
3. Tosca - *La Furiadel Tango*
4. Big Foot Chester - *Tabernaclin'*
5. Sonic Youth - *Silver Sessions*
6. Transona 5 - *Duffel Bag*
7. Guv'ner - *Spectral Worship*
8. Bis - *Itendo*
9. Fool Logic Control - S/T
10. The Lounge Lizards - *Queen of all Ears*
11. RL Burnside - *Come On In*
12. John Lurie - *Fishing With John*
13. Mix Master Mike - *Anti-Theft Device*
14. Magic Slim and the Teardrops - *Black Tornado*
15. Monroe Mustang - *Plain Sweeping Themes for the Unprepared*
16. Santiago Jimenez Jr - *Corridos de la Frontera*
17. Biscuit Rollers - *One of a King Flavor*
18. Zom/Horvitz/Sharp/Previte - *Downtown Lullaby*
19. Richard Buckner - *Since*
20. Sugar Plant - *Happy*
21. Bob Mould - *The Last Dog and Pony Show*
22. Six Finger Satellite - *Law of Ruins*
23. *Sounds of the North American Frogs*
24. Inti-illimani - *Leiania*
25. Nis Name Is Alive - *Fort Lake*
26. Black Eyed Peas - *Behind the Front*
27. Galactic - *Crazyhorse Mongoose*
28. Mood Music Volume One - *Music for Conversations*
29. L'Usine - S/T
30. Pip Proud - *One of These Days*
31. The Magnetic Fields 7"
32. V/A - *Drums 'n Bliss*
33. Pullman - *Turnstyles and Junkpiles*
34. Jim and Jesse - *Songs from the Homeplace*
35. Jessamine - *Don't Stay Too Long*
36. Pram - *North Pole Radio Station*
37. Bright - *Blue Christian*
38. Arab Strap - *The Week Never Starts*
39. v/a - *Endless Miles* (a tribute)

***The Call Letter* Staff**

editor: Kelly Colchin

staff:

Philip Moody

John Barker

David Shaenfield

Susan Shepard

The KVRX *Call Letter* is published monthly by the staff of KVRX 91.7 FM, the student radio station of the University of Texas at Austin. Views expresssed herein do not necessarily reflect those of KVRX, Texas Student Publications or UT-Austin.

Mail Us At:
KVRX *Call Letter*, P.O. Box D
Austin, TX. 78705
or call: (512)471-5106

website:
http://www.utexas.edu/students/kvrx